

Message Text

SECRET

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ACTION EA-07

INFO OCT-01 SS-14 ISO-00 INR-05 PM-03 PRS-01 SP-02
SY-02 NSC-05 CIAE-00 DODE-00 NSAE-00 /040 W
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FM AMEMBASSY VIENTIANE
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8807

S E C R E T VIENTIANE 1644

LIMDIS

E.O. 11652: XGDS-1, 4 DIMPTD
TAGS: PINR ASEC VM GW MY UK CZ PL LA
SUBJECT: VIETNAMESE INTELLIGENCE OPERATIONS AGAINST FOREIGN
MISSIONS

1. A WEST GERMAN DIPLOMAT TOLD US DECEMBER 13 THAT THE VIETNAMESE EMBASSY IN VIENTIANE HAD ATTEMPTED TO RECRUIT ONE ETHNIC VIETNAMESE LOCAL EMPLOYEE OF THE WEST GERMAN EMBASSY TO REPORT ON WEST GERMAN ACTIVITY IN THE LPDR.

2. THE EMPLOYEE, WHO KEPT HIS SUPERIORS INFORMED OF THE VIETNAMESE EMBASSY RECRUITMENT EFFORT AND WHO HAS SINCE FLED TO THAILAND, WAS APPROACHED FOUR TIMES DURING THE MONTH OF NOVEMBER. HE WAS DIRECTED TO REPORT ON: 1) DISCUSSIONS BETWEEN WEST GERMAN AMBASSADOR WASSERBERG AND PRIME MINISTER KAYSONE DURING THE FORMER'S CALL UPON HIS ARRIVAL IN VIENTIANE; 2) IMPRESSIONS OF VIETNAM OF A VIENTIANE-BASED WEST GERMAN DIPLOMAT FOLLOWING HIS VISIT TO THE SRV; 3) BIOGRAPHIC DATA ON ALL WEST GERMAN DIPLOMATS IN THE LPDR AND SPECIFICALLY THE IDENTITY OF ANY "INTELLIGENCE OFFICERS"; 4) TYPES OF ARTICLES THAT THE EMPLOYEE WAS REQUIRED TO TRANSLATE.

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3. THE EMPLOYEE WAS TOLD TO REPORT TO BUI HUU TIEM (A THIRD SECRETARY IN THE VIETNAMESE EMBASSY) AND WAS CONTACTED ONCE BY A COURIER NAMED KY KY, REPORTEDLY A LOCAL TAILOR AND ETHNIC VIETNAMESE. THE EMPLOYEE MET WITH TIEM ONCE IN THE VIETNAMESE EMBASSY. HE MET WITH WITH ITEM ONCE IN THE VIETNAMESE EMBASSY. HE MET WITH

KY KY ONCE, AT WHICH TIME HE WAS GIVEN A SMALL TYPE-WRITTEN NOTE (INSTRUCTING HIM TO REPORT THE CONTENT OF THE WASSERBERG-KAYSONE DISCUSSION) WHICH AFTER READING HE WAS REQUIRED TO EAT IN THE PRESENCE OF THE COURIER.

4. THE EMPLOYEE TOLD HIS WEST GERMAN EMPLOYERS THAT SIMILAR INTELLIGENCE OPERATIONS USING ETHNIC VIETNAMESE LOCAL EMPLOYEES HAD BEEN MOUNTED AGAINST THE MALAYSIAN, BRITISH AND AMERICAN EMBASSIES, WITH RESULTS THAT WERE UNKNOWN TO HIM. HE ALSO SAID THAT THE VIETNAMESE HAD SUCCEEDED IN PLACING ETHNIC VIETNAMESE "REPORTERS" IN THE CZECH AND POLISH EMBASSIES.

5. BEGIN COMMENT: THE EMBASSY CURRENTLY EMPLOYS ONE ETHNIC VIETNAMESE LOCAL. HE IS ASSIGNED TO THE MAINTENANCE SECTION. ANOTHER ETHNIC VIETNAMESE WORKED AS CHANCERY RECEPTIONIST AND POLITICAL/ECONOMIC SECRETARY. THE RECEPTIONIST TOLD US IN EARLY NOVEMBER THAT SHE HAD TO LEAVE BECAUSE HER PARENTS WERE (UNEXPLAINABLY) WORRIED ABOUT HER CONTINUED EMPLOYMENT AT THE U.S. EMBASSY. NEITHER OF THESE VIETNAMESE EMPLOYEES HAD ACCESS TO CLASSIFIED INFORMATION, THOUGH THE RECEPTIONIST REGULARLY DID TRANSLATION WORK FOR THE EMBASSY. TWO ETHNIC VIETNAMESE COOKS WORK AT THE CHARGE'S RESIDENCE.

6. VIETNAMESE INTEREST IN ACTIVITIES OF THE CZECHS AND
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POLES IS INTERESTING. ATTEMPTS TO ASCERTAIN THE SUBSTANCE OF THE WEST GERMAN AMBASSADOR'S CONVERSATION WITH KAYSONE POSSIBLY SUGGESTS LESS THAN COMPLETE TRUST BETWEEN THE VIETNAMESE AND THE LAO LEADERSHIP (KAYSONE).
END COMMENT.

7. RECOMMENDATION: THAT DEPARTMENT REPEAT THIS MESSAGE TO CONCERNED INTELLIGENCE AGENCIES.
ROBERTS

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NNN

*** Current Handling Restrictions *** LIMDIS

*** Current Classification *** SECRET

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